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Title: Haranavel Koehlanna

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Haranavel Koehlanna

(as told by Gwendlyn
Firemane)

An elf village was destroyed by an orc raiding party-the only survivor an elf woman, great with child. She fled into the burning forest and forded a swollen stream. On the other

side, she found refuge in a tiny human village. There she gave birth to her child, for labor was brought on by her traumas. With her dying breath she named her infant daughter

Haranavei Koehlanna and she bade a woodcutter care for her child. The elf woman perished that night. Under the care of the villager, who was now mayor, Haranavei grew into a child of amazing

beauty. The human women of the household took exception to this beauty and they did their best to ensure that such loveliness would never show. The mother and her

clean the middens, the sties, and the fireplaces every day. The poor elf child worked from before dawn to after dusk. The

people whom she called
"family" sought always to
humiliate her for the

pointed ears and thin
features, and to belittle
her beauty. Their taunts
hurt an innocent heart.

And so matters went for
many years, until one day
a prince rode through the

now prosperous village. He
was an elf prince, this
much is true, and he
stopped at the human
village to water and feed
his stallion. The mayor's
daughters were smitten
with his charm and

elegance; in him they
praised the very features
they taunted in Haranavei.

The elf amused himself at
the human girls'
expense-until he saw the

thin figure of Haranavei
trudge by, bearing her
heavy burden of firewood.
The prince grabbed the
elf maid by the arms and
stared long and hard into
her eyes. Then slowly, he
smiled, for his search

was over. Drawmij
Koehlanna had found his
sister. The two wept with
joy when the truth was
revealed, though Drawmij
was saddened at the news
of his mother. He
disclosed that he had

been away at the time of
the orc attack; he had
returned to discover his
home in flames. But
there was no sign of his
mother, whom he knew to
be pregnant. And so
Drawmij went in search

of her and her child.

More truth was revealed
at the house of the
mayor's, for the elf
prince saw that the
humans had made a slave
of his sister. He

retaliated by slaying the
mayor's wife and
daughters, only sparing
the man's life at the
request of Haranavei.

Moral: Suffer not the
vanity of others